

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter comprising:

a shaft comprising a body with a proximal portion and a distal portion, the body having a length configured for placement through an endoscopic device in an assisted embryo transfer procedure and the body defining an opening from the proximal portion to the distal portion, the distal portion having an exterior dimension suitable for insertion into a body of a subject as a procedural instrument for transferring an embryo, the distal portion having an end that is beveled in a first direction across the opening, such that a length of the shaft to a first point on the end is a first length and a length of the shaft to a second point on the end is a second length longer than the first length, a portion of the shaft including the second point is beveled in a second direction opposite the first direction defining a tip shaped to be inserted into an endometrial lining of the subject, and wherein the tip comprises a material that has sufficient rigidity to penetrate an endometrial the endometrial lining of a subject the subject and sufficient flexibility to resist penetration of a uterine muscle of a subject the subject.

2. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the beveled end defines an angle of up to 60 degrees between the end of the distal portion and the open front end.

3. (Original) The catheter of claim 2, wherein the beveled end defines an angle of 10 to 15 degrees between the end of the distal portion and the open front end.

4. (Currently Amended) The catheter of claim 1, further comprising a tapered region approximately 1.5 centimeters from the tip and wherein an outside the outside diameter of the shaft tapers to a greater outside diameter in the tapered region.

5. (Currently Amended) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the shaft defines a first axis of symmetry through the opening therethrough and a portion of the distal portion defines a second different axis of symmetry through the opening therethrough.

6. (Currently Amended) The catheter of claim 5, wherein the second axis of symmetry differs by a deflection angle of ~~0 to 60~~ up to 60 degrees from the first axis of symmetry.

7. (Currently Amended) The catheter of claim 5, wherein the second axis of symmetry differs by a deflection angle of 10 to 15 degrees from the first axis of symmetry.

8. (Currently Amended) The catheter of claim 6, wherein the deflection angle is in a direction opposite the first direction ~~beveled end of the distal portion~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The catheter of claim 1, wherein an inner diameter of the opening at the end the tip is at least approximately 10 micrometers in size.

10. (Currently Amended) The catheter of claim 9 claim 1, wherein the inner diameter of the opening at the end the tip is between approximately 400 and 500 micrometers.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a catheter body with a proximal portion and a distal portion and having a length configured for placement through an endoscopic device in an assisted embryo transfer procedure, the distal portion having a tip an angled tip and an outside diameter suitable for insertion into a body of a subject as a procedural instrument, wherein the angled tip has a shape that is suitable for insertion into an endometrial lining of the subject and comprises a material that has sufficient rigidity to penetrate an endometrial the endometrial lining of a subject the subject and sufficient flexibility to resist penetration of a uterine muscle of a subject the subject;

the distal portion of the catheter body having an end beveled in a first direction across an end opening and a portion beveled in a second direction opposite the first direction defining the angled tip; and

a portion of the distal portion having a fixed axis of symmetry different than an axis of symmetry of the proximal portion.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the fixed axis of the distal portion of symmetry differs by a deflection angle of up to 60 degrees from the axis of symmetry of the proximal portion.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the fixed axis of the distal portion of symmetry differs by a deflection angle of 10 to 15 degrees from the axis of symmetry of the proximal portion.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the beveled end defines an angle of up to 60 degrees between the end of the distal portion and the open front end.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the beveled end defines an angle of 10 to 15 degrees between the end of the distal portion and the open front end.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a tapered region approximately 1.5 centimeters from the tip and ~~the outside~~ an outside diameter of the shaft in the tapered region is less than ~~the outside~~ ~~the~~ an outside diameter of the shaft at a portion outside of the tapered region.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein an inner diameter of the tip is at least approximately 10 micrometers in size.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inner diameter of the tip is between approximately 400 and 500 micrometers.

19-25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the distal portion is pointed.

27. (New) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the tip is pointed.

28. (New) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the tip comprises a cutting tool.

29. (New) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the distal portion comprises a microsurgical instrument capable of being inserted into the endometrial lining.

30. (New) The catheter of claim 1, further comprising an embryo in the distal portion.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the tip is pointed.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the tip comprises a cutting tool capable of being inserted into the endometrial lining.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising an embryo in the distal portion.

34. (New) An apparatus comprising:  
a catheter body having a proximal portion and a distal portion and an opening from the proximal portion to the distal portion, wherein the distal portion has an outside diameter suitable for insertion into a uterus; and  
a microsurgical instrument at the distal portion, the microsurgical instrument including an end of the distal portion that is beveled across the opening to form an angled tip, the angled tip shaped for insertion into an endometrial lining.